Three Sisters c 1866-1875
From the Wells Smith Family Album

Reflections
Jeffrey Hunt
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This photograph comes from page 38 of the Wells Smith family album. The page holds only three photographs, with one slot either missing or never filled. The full page is being scanned as a unit, then each image is reviewed one at a time.

The first photograph shows three girls who appear closely related—very likely sisters. Based on their apparent ages—roughly nine or ten, eight, and five—their births, as a group, likely fall somewhere around c. 1866–1875, give or take a couple of years. Their expressions are steady and direct, and the girl in the center has a look that's almost fierce. The image has that formal studio balance—carefully arranged, quietly composed.

The card was produced in Sherman, Texas, matching the same studio mark found on the John Smith copy elsewhere in the album. The significance of that Texas connection remains a mystery, and it may become clearer as more pages are scanned and compared. So far, no direct family connection to Texas has been found.

With enough family structure mapped—through Ancestry research and known connections—it becomes possible to narrow a shortlist by branch and generation. With a photograph like this, rough age estimates can be used to approximate birth years, then cross-checked against known clusters of cousins and related lines to see where a trio of sisters might plausibly fit. For now, it remains only a method and a hope, not a conclusion.

There are also details worth returning to later. The dresses and neckwear feel slightly distinctive, and may help narrow the date or suggest a region—possibly East Coast cousins—once they can be compared against other images in the album. For now, the identities of the girls are unknown, but the photograph belongs unmistakably to the album's unfolding story.

L. B. REARICK,

ARTIST,

(Over Dr. Brooke's Drug Store),

SHERMAN, : : : : TEXAS.

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